

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the examination to date and respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the reasons that follow.

The only remaining issue is obviousness.

I. Status of the Claims

Independent claim 1 is amended with respect to the recitation of the weight composition ratio; support therefor can be found in, *inter alia*, Example 2 in the present Specification. No new matter is introduced and claims 1 and 3-13 are currently pending to be examined on their merits.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Claim Rejections

Claims 1 and 3-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over US 2005/0069780 ("Kinouchi") and US 7,258,941 ("Hirano"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Applicants maintain the position as set forth in the September 16, 2009 Reply that the present claims are non-obvious over the teachings of Kinouchi or Hirano, alone or in combination. The Office has acknowledged the unexpected results described in the September 16, 2009 Reply, and the only remaining issue appears to be whether the claims are commensurate with the unexpected results, as described in, for example, Example 2 in the present Specification. Office Action, pp. 2-3.

While not acquiescing to the grounds of the rejections, merely to advance the prosecution of this application towards allowance, the Applicants hereby amend independent claim 1 to a weight composition ratio from 27:73 to 33:67. As the Office appears to have conceded that the data supports this range, Applicants believe the rejection should now be obviated. Office Action,

p. 3. Accordingly, the unexpected results are fully commensurate with the scope of the present claims.

At least in view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION


The Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the application.

The Office is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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